

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 6334

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, GR, CY, TU
SUBJECT: FOREIGN RELATIONS: GREEK PRESS COVERAGE OF GREEK
CYPRIOT COUNTER PROPOSAL ON FAMAGUSTA AND U.S. REACTION

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. ALL ATHENS PAPERS ON JULY 25 PROMINENTLY
PLAYED THE GOC COUNTER-PROPOSAL TO THE DENKTASH PROPOSALS FOR
THE RETURN OF GREEK CYPRIOTS TO VAROSHA. THE GREEK RADIO BEGAN
FEATURING THE DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT WELCOMING IT AS A POSITIVE
DEVELOPMENT IN ITS EARLY MORNING NEWSCASTS AND THE STORY WAS
LATER ALSO PICKED UP IN THE AFTERNOON PAPERS. THE GREEK
GOVERNMENT HAS SO FAR REFRAINED FROM ANY PUBLIC COMMENT ON
EITHER THE GOC PROPOSAL OR THE U.S. REACTION TO IT.

2. MOST MORNING PAPERS HEADLINED THE GOC PROPOSAL STRESSING
THE REQUIREMENT THAT TURKISH TROOPS LEAVE FAMAGUSTA BEFORE
INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS COULD BEGIN. LEFTIST PROINI ELEFTHEROTYPIA
HEADLINED ITS ACCOUNT "KYPRIANOU: GET OUT OF FAMAGUSTA AND THEN
WE WILL HAVE DISCUSSIONS." PRO-GOVERNMENT KATHIMERINI HEADLINED
"FULL WITHDRAWAL OF THE TURKS FROM FAMAGUSTA SOUGHT BY KYPRIANOU
AS PRECONDITION FOR INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS" WHILE PRO-GOVERNMENT
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AKROPOLIS SAID "NICOSIA ACCEPTS THE DENKTASH PROPOSAL WITH
CONDITIONS."

3. THE AFTERNOON PAPERS CONTINUED THE STORY, WITHOUT ANY
EDITORIALS, WHILE ALSO NOTING THE U.S. REACTION TO THE GREEK
CYPRIOT COUNTER-PROPOSAL. WHILE COVERAGE OF THE U.S. REACTION
WAS EXTENSIVE, PAPERS GENERALLY JOINED PRO-GOVERNMENT VRADYNI IN

QUOTING AN AP DISPATCH TO THE EFFECT THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ALSO HOPED THAT THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT WOULD FACILITATE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO. END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH THIS WAS NOT REFLECTED IN THE PRESS REPORTING ON PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU'S HASTY REJECTION OF DENKTASH'S VAROSHA PROPOSAL, WE SENSE FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH SEVERAL GREEK CONTACTS THAT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE UNHAPPINESS IN GOG CIRCLES OVER THE MANNER IN WHICH KYPRIANOU HANDLED THE MATTER AND HIS FAILURE TO CONSULT WITH OTHER CYPRIOT LEADERS OR WITH ATHENS. WHILE THESE GOG OFFICIALS SAW THE DENKTASH INITIATIVE PRIMARILY AS A PLOY TO INFLUENCE THE CONGRESSIONAL VOTE ON THE EMBARGO AND CONSIDERED IT UNACCEPTABLE AS A BASIS FOR BEGINNING NEGOTIATIONS, THEY FELT KYPRIANOU SHOULD NOT HAVE RESPONDED NEGATIVELY. INSTEAD, IN THEIR VIEW, KYPRIANOU, AFTER APPROPRIATE CONSULTATIONS, SHOULD HAVE COUNTERED DENKTASH WITH HIS OWN PROPOSAL. THIS HE HAS NOW DONE AND WE SUSPECT, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE TO PROVE IT, THE GOG VERY LIKELY HAD A HAND IN BRINGING THIS ABOUT.

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